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CIVIL WAR™

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DE LA TORRE

In a brilliant flash of light, Carol Danvers was transformed by the alien Kree Empire's DNA-altering technology, becoming the magnificent...

MS. MARVEL

"BATTLE LINES"

After a terrible accident involving the super hero team NEW WARRIORS results in the deaths of schoolchildren, the long debated Superhuman Registration Act is finally made law.

Heroes must register their identities with the government and be trained as proper law enforcement officers. Failure to register is a crime, punishable by incarceration.

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Julia "Arachne" Carpenter changed sides when she was sent to hunt down her lover, Maximilian Coleridge (a.k.a. "Shroud"). The two of them are now on the run, hunted by the United States government.

Ms. Marvel and Simon Williams (a.k.a. "Wonder Man"), who both side with Iron Man, have been tasked with hunting down a new hero known only as Araña...

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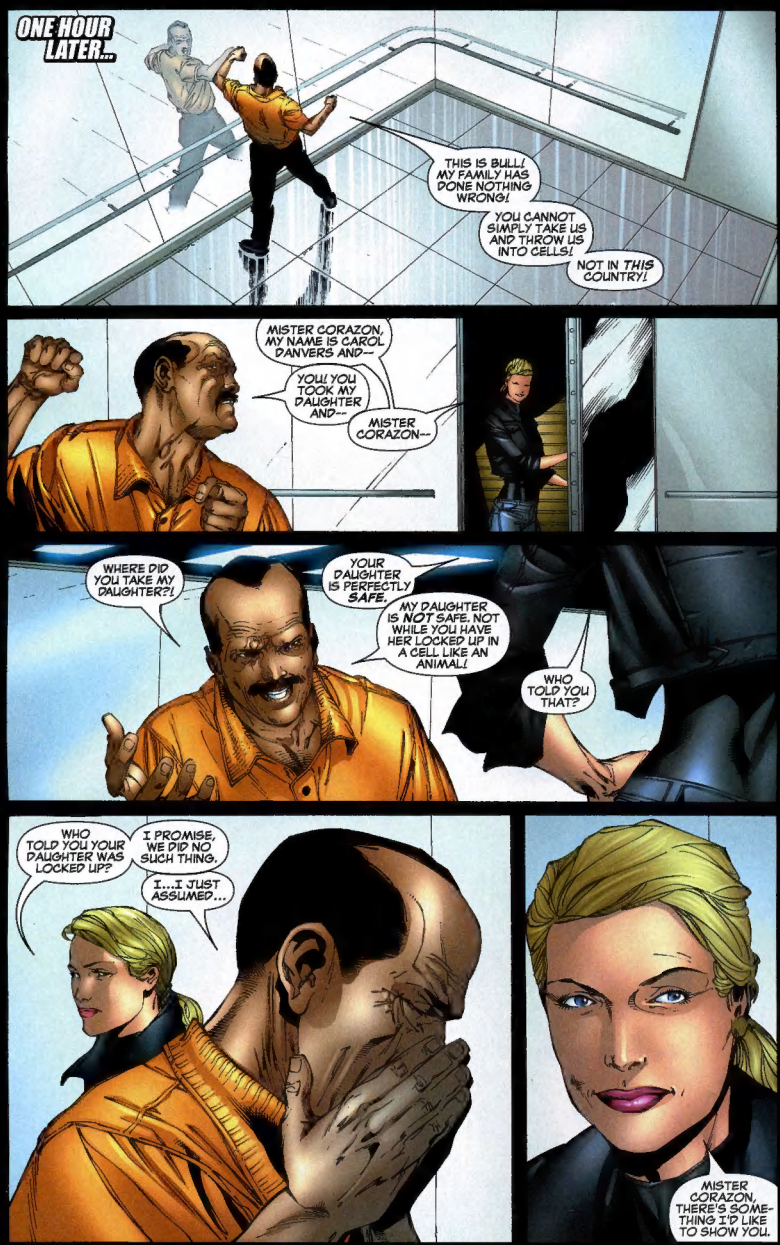
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
THIS IS A BAD IDEA, ANYA.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT HARD FOR THEM TO FIGURE OUT WHO YOU ARE, RIGHT?
AND THEY'RE GOING TO COME HERE AND THEY'RE GOING TO ARREST YOU.
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST COME CLEAN, TELL PAPA WHAT'S GOING ON. THAT I HAVE SUPER POWERS AND I'VE BEEN SPENDING MY EVENINGS PUNCHING BAD GUYS.
OH, PAPA! YOU--A CAKE?

ANYA! BE CAREFUL, YOU'LL GET YOURSELF KILLED!
MY BIRTHDAY ISN'T UNTIL SATURDAY.
BLOW OUT THE CANDLES, MI ARANITA.
YOU'RE...NOT GOING TO BE HERE SATURDAY, ARE YOU?
I AM SORRY, ANYA. BUT I AM VISITING CHICAGO TO INTERVIEW--
PAPA, IT'S FINE. IT'S JUST A BIRTHDAY AND--
IT IS YOUR SIXTEENTH AND I DO NOT--
ANYA CORAZON?

YOU RAN OFF BEFORE WE HAD THE CHANCE TO TALK.


ONE HOUR LATER...
THIS IS BULL! MY FAMILY HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG!
YOU CANNOT SIMPLY TAKE US AND THROW US INTO CELLS!
NOT IN THIS COUNTRY!
MISTER CORAZON, MY NAME IS CAROL DANVERS AND--
YOU! YOU TOOK MY DAUGHTER AND--
MISTER CORAZON--
WHERE DID YOU TAKE MY DAUGHTER?!
YOUR DAUGHTER IS PERFECTLY SAFE.
MY DAUGHTER IS NOT SAFE. NOT WHILE YOU HAVE HER LOCKED UP IN A CELL LIKE AN ANIMAL!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
WHO TOLD YOU YOUR DAUGHTER WAS LOCKED UP?
I PROMISE, WE DID NO SUCH THING.
I...I JUST ASSUMED...
MISTER CORAZON, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
MISTER CORAZON, THIS IS WHERE YOUR DAUGHTER IS.
WE'RE NOT KEEPING HER IN A CELL...
WE'RE GIVING HER THE GRAND TOUR.
SALTER
WOOOOO!
YOU FLYING TYPES!
HEY! YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO LAND!
ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO LAND! YOU NEVER PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S ABOVE YOU!
SEE? EASY AS ANYTHING!
TA-DAAAAA!
UHHHH...

THAT WAS ONE HECK OF A SHOW, LITTLE LADY! WHY I--
MI ARANITA?
IS THAT YOU?
IT'S OKAY, ANYA, IT'S PART OF WHY WE'RE ALL HERE.
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO.
PAPA?
THERE'S... WELL....
PAPA? THERE'S SOMETHING WE MAYBE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.

HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY...
Laundromat
24h
ALLEY
YOU SOIL IT
WE CLEAN IT
$5.00
LIARDS
8
AW, NOW YER A CUTIE, AIN'T YA?
YES SIREE...
OH! AND YOU'RE QUITE IMAGINATIVE TOO.
HEY!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

OH, COME ON, YOU PIECE OF--
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WOULD TAKE YOU TWO MINUTES, MAX?
APPARENTLY I'M NOT AS SLICK AT HOT-WIRING A CAR AS I USED TO BE. GOING HERO FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS SEEMS TO HAVE DULLED MY CRIMINAL SKILLS.
I THOUGHT ALL I HAD TO DO WAS--
VROOOOOM
WELL, THAT, ACTUALLY.
OKAY, SCOOT OVER. WE NEED TO GET MOVING.
MY APOLOGIES IF THINGS DON'T FIT WELL, BUT THERE WAS ONLY ONE GUY IN THERE DOING HIS LAUNDRY AND I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHECK SIZES.
FITTING ISN'T GOING TO BE THE ISSUE SO MUCH AS LIVING THROUGH THE SHAME.
HEY! HEY!
MY CLOTHES AND MY CAR?!
WHAT THE HECK DID I DO WRONG TODAY?

THE IMPORTANT THING IS, YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
SINCE THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WENT INTO EFFECT, THE ONLY TIMES YOU'VE BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC IS WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELING AROUND BROOKLYN.
ALTHOUGH YOU COULD BE TICKETED FOR APPEARING IN PUBLIC IN COSTUME--
BUT IT'S NOT A COSTUME.
IT'S SORT OF A PART OF ME--
WHAT I MEAN IS, YOU'VE NOT BREAKING ANY LAWS BIG ENOUGH FOR ANYONE TO CARE ABOUT; IF YOU COME CLEAN RIGHT NOW, REGISTER AND--
NO! THIS IS CRAZINESS! MY DAUGHTER IS TOO YOUNG TO--
THERE IS NO LOWER-AGE LIMIT ON THE S.H.R.A., MISTER CORAZON.
IF SOMEONE WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES IS GOING TO LEGALLY USE THOSE POWERS AND ABILITIES, THEN THEY MUST BE REGISTERED AND TRAINED, NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY ARE.
SPIDER-MAN WAS YOUR DAUGHTER'S AGE WHEN HE GAINED HIS POWERS AND--
THEN ANYA WILL NOT DO ANY OF THESE...THESE THINGS SHE CAN DO.
IF SHE DOES NOT DO THEM, YOU CANNOT MAKE HER REGISTER. YOU CANNOT--
PAPA-- NO.
NO?
I WANT TO DO THIS.

MI ARAÑITA, YOU ARE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE THIS KIND OF COMPLICATED DECIS--
APPARENTLY, I AM.
THERE WERE THESE GUYS AT THE CHICKEN COW TONIGHT? THEY WERE GOING TO HURT PEOPLE.
I WAS REALLY LUCKY THAT MS. MARVEL AND WONDER MAN WERE THERE, BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I WAS GOING TO HANDLE ALL OF THE BAD GUYS AND NOT LET ANYONE IN THE STORE GET HURT.
I CAN SAY I'M NOT GOING TO USE MY POWERS. I CAN PROMISE I'M NOT GOING TO DO SUPER-HEROEY THINGS. BUT, PAPA, SOMETIMES STUPID STUFF HAPPENS. IDIOTS PULL OUT GUNS AND...
I CAN'T JUST STAND THERE AND WATCH BAD THINGS GO DOWN JUST BECAUSE I PROMISED NOT TO DO THE THINGS I KNOW HOW TO DO.
MAYBE...
MAYBE YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH.
BUT I AM STILL HER PAPA.
I AM STILL THE ONE YOU WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IF SHE GETS HURT.

ON THE ROAD...
YOU SHOULD PULL OVER UP HERE AND CHANGE OUT OF YOUR COSTUME, JULIA.
THERE IS NO SENSE IN ANYONE SEEING YOU DRIVING, EVEN IN THE DARK.
WELL, MY LIFE OF CRIME IS OFF TO AN AUSPICIOUS START.
I'VE FLIPPED THE GOVERNMENT THE BIRD, STOLEN CLOTHES AND PARTICIPATED IN GRAND THEFT AUTO, ALL IN UNDER TWO HOURS.
JULIA, A COUPLE OF LARCENIES, EVEN GRAND ONES, HARDLY MAKE FOR A LIFE OF CRIME.
WE JUST HAVE TO THINK POSITIVE. IN A FEW HOURS, WE'LL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND--
FREEWAY ENTRANCE WEST 80 287 NORTH
EXCUSE ME?
WHAT?
OUT OF THE COUNTRY?
CANADA IS ABOUT SEVEN HOURS NORTH. IF WE SWITCH CARS EVERY COUPLE OF HOURS, WE CAN BE IN MONTREAL BY NOON AT THE LATEST.
WE'RE NOT LEAVING THIS COUNTRY UNTIL WE HAVE RACHEL.
RACHEL?! SHE'S IN COLORADO. WE CAN CALL YOUR MOTHER WHEN WE GET TO MONTREAL AND HAVE HER BRING--
NO! DO YOU THINK S.H.I.E.L.D. WILL LET THAT HAPPEN? YOU THINK THEY'LL LET US LEAVE THE COUNTRY, THEN JUST CALL HOME AND HAVE SOMEBODY BRING US OUR THINGS?
NO, SHE'S MY DAUGHTER. I'M NOT LEAVING THE COUNTRY WITHOUT HER!
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO TO CANADA WITH HER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WE TALKED ABOUT IT. YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO STAY HERE AND REGISTER.
DAZZLER WORLD TOUR 1995

TONY STARK CALLED ME, ASKED ME TO JOIN HIS LITTLE POLICEMAN CREW AND...
:SIGH:
I THOUGHT IT WAS A CHANCE TO HELP PEOPLE GET AWAY THAT DIDN'T WANT TO REGISTER.
BUT...DAMN IT...EVERYBODY SUDDENLY GOT ALL, ALL....IDEALISTIC, INSTEAD OF JUST RUNNING AWAY TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
THAT'S WHY HOBIE BROWN [redacted] ON RYKER'S ISLAND RIGHT NOW...WHICH IS WHERE YOU'D BE IF I HADN'T [redacted] YOU RUN AWAY!
BUT YOU AND RACHEL WOULD BE SAFE IF YOU WOULD HAVE JUST PLAYED ALONG AND LET THEM CAPTURE ME--
OH MY GOD, MAX. LISTEN TO YOU!
ONE MINUTE I'M SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER, THE NEXT, I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE HELPED THEM ARREST YOU?
JULIA, I DIDN'T MEAN--
SHE'S MY LIFE, MAX. AND THESE LAST FEW MONTHS WITH YOU...THEY'VE BEEN GREAT. SOOO, SO GREAT.
I SHOULD HAVE JUST RUN AWAY WHEN THIS WHOLE REGISTRATION THING WAS STARTING. YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT I DIDN'T.
I SCREWED UP AND I STAYED HERE AND I FOUGHT A DUMB FIGHT AND NOW I HAVE TO RUN AWAY.
BUT I CAN'T RUN AWAY WITHOUT RACHEL.
THEN LET'S GO GET YOUR DAUGHTER.

BECAUSE OF [illegible] AGE, ANYA WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY WITH YOU, RATHER THAN [illegible] REQUIRED TO RESIDE [illegible] IN THE STARK TOWER TRAINING FACILITY.
THAT IS GOOD.
SHE'D BE THE ONLY [illegible] AROUND RIGHT NOW, SO IT WOULD BE LONELY FOR HER ANYWAY.
BUT SHE WILL NEED TO [illegible] HERE EACH DAY AFTER SCHOOL AND ALL DAY ON THE WEEK-ENDS SO--
BLA-DEET
CAROL DANVERS, PLEASE REPORT TO BRIEFING ROOM THREE. CODE NINE IS IN EFFECT.
WHOA. WAS THAT IRON MAN?
IT WAS.
WHAT'S A CODE NINE?
ANYA, DON'T BE SO--
IT MEANS THERE'S A HERO WHO ISN'T [illegible] HEROIC.
HOW MUCH DO THOSE HOLOGRAM THINGIES COST? I TOTALLY WANT ONE FOR MY XBOX 360.
ANYA!
MORE THAN YOU WOULD MAKE IN A DECADE OF WORKING AT CHICKEN COW.
LOOK, YOU GO HOME WITH YOUR DAD AND I'LL COME BY TOMORROW. I'LL SEND SOMEONE IN TO ESCORT YOU OUT AND WE CAN--
UH... NO?
LOOK, IF I WAS ALL TRAINED AND HAD MY BADGE-- DO [illegible] GET BADGES?
I--
NEVER MIND. THE POINT IS, IF I WAS FULLY TRAINED, I'D [illegible] CALLED TO THAT MEETING TOO, WOULDN'T I?
PROBABLY.
THEN LET'S GO.
BUT YOU'RE NOT FULLY TRAINED.
I'LL LEARN MORE IN THAT MEETING THAN I WILL SITTING IN A CAB BACK TO BROOKLYN.
SHE LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME?
MAYBE I SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT YOU THAN I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT HER.

CAROL, THIS GIRL'S NOT CLASSIFIED FOR–
I TOLD ANYA SHE COULD COME. SHE'S IN TRAINING NOW. I WANT HER TO SEE WHAT SHE'S TRAINING FOR.
WELCOME ABOARD.
THANKS!
SHE'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
I NEVER SAID SHE WOULDN'T BE.
THIS IS AGENT OWEN, S.H.I.E.L.D. LIAISON FOR OUR RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING PROJECT HERE IN THE TOWER. HE'S GOT SOMETHING RATHER IMPORTANT TO TELL US.
LONG STORY SHORT, FOLKS: ARACHNE--JULIA CARPENTER--HAS GONE ROGUE.
SHE WAS INVOLVED WITH HOBIE BROWN'S ATTEMPTED ESCAPE LAST EVENING, AND EARLIER THIS EVENING, SHE JOINED FORCES WITH MAXIMILIAN COLERIDGE TO DEFEAT THREE SQUADS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.
MS. CARPENTER AND MR. COLERIDGE WERE SEEN ONE HOUR AGO, STEALING A CAR OUTSIDE A LAUNDROMAT IN HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.
THE CAR HAS BEEN SPOTTED IN PENNSYLVANIA AND THE GREEN LIGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO TAKE THEM DOWN.
CAROL, YOU AND WONDER MAN HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO BRING CARPENTER AND COLERIDGE IN.
YOU'LL HAVE CAPEKILLER BACKUP, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO RISK ANY MORE MEN IN A FRONTAL ASSAULT.
YOU TWO HAVE THE POWERS, S.H.I.E.L.D. WANTS YOU TO USE THEM.

YOU STAY IN THAT SEAT AND WATCH. YOU'RE HERE ON OBSERVER STATUS ONLY, GOT IT?
YEAH, YEAH, I GOT IT THE FIRST TEN TIMES YOU TOLD ME.
YOU KNOW, I'VE FOUGHT SUPER PEOPLE BEFORE. EVIL WIZARDS, A GUY THAT COULD RUN TWO HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR. I'VE EVEN TEAMED-UP WITH SPIDER-MAN. THIS STUFF ISN'T EXACTLY NEW TO ME.
GOOD TO KNOW. BUT RIGHT NOW, JUST SIT TIGHT AND WATCH.
LOOKS TO ME DOING ABOUT SEVENTY MILES AN HOUR. TOO FAST FOR EITHER ONE OF US TO JUST SWOOP DOWN AND GRAB IT.
AND THERE'S WAAAY TOO MUCH TRAFFIC AROUND TO JUST TAKE OUT THE CAR.
HOW ABOUT WE FLY DOWN, GIVE THEM THE CHANCE TO STOP, AND IF THEY DON'T, WE GRAB IT TOGETHER AND TRY TO SLOW IT DOWN?
BEST PLAN I'VE HEARD SO FAR.
YOU READY?
YEP.
THIS IS MS. MARVEL TO ALL UNITS.
GO CODE: ALABASTER.
REPEAT. GO CODE: ALABASTER.
JULIA. DRIVE FASTER.
WHY?
OH.

JULIA! PULL OVER, OR WE PULL YOU OVER!
KRASSH!
GAAAAAHH!
JULIA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHUD!
AGGGHH!
SKREEE!
SKREEE!
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT!
MACK
NO!
GAAHH!

MAX!
JULIA!
OOOF!
NNNNNYYAAAAHHH!
UNIT 6 TO ALL UNITS. COLERIDGE IS DOWN!
OKAY. WE'RE GONNA PLAY DIRTY?
THEN LET'S PLAY DIRTY.

CREEEEEAK
GRNNNNNN!
OH NO! MOVING TOO FAST! TOO HEAVY TO STOP!
CAROL!
I'LL HELP!
I DIDN'T SEE WHERE SHE WENT, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
NO.
BUT WE'LL FIND HER...

SHE CAN'T RUN FOREVER.
DAZZLER
TO BE CONTINUED...

MAKE MINE MS. MARVEL!

How about that crazy car chase scene?! Rob DeLaTorre once again takes something that I thought might look pretty cool and completely blows my mind by turning in art better than the images I concocted in my own mind while writing.

As always, I'm Brian Reed, your author and host. Welcome to another episode of "Make Mine MS. MARVEL"! I'm going to play around with the format of the old letters page here. I've been doing the traditional "print letter, reply to letter, rinse, repeat" and this time around, I thought I'd take more of a column/blogging approach, just to see how it feels.

I usually say "letters have been edited for length but not content" and it's true that I won't be twisting anybody's words, but I will just be excerpting this month. Maybe you guys will tell me to knock it off and go back to the tried and true format next month. Maybe you'll love this whacked-out idea. We'll see.

This month has been crazy for me. First, there was the five-day stretch of crazy known as the San Diego Comic Con. Then I rapidly began packing up my house to leave Los Angeles for the green, tree-lined roads of Georgia. I have a lot of family living in the Peach State and my wife and I decided it might be good for the kids to know their relatives. You may now commence laughing about my moving to the state I took a chunk out of in issue 3...

I asked about Carol's costume last month, and man, oh man, did we hear back about it. The overwhelming response both in our in-box and in the online forums is along the lines of "Don't you dare touch a thread on that costume!" Of course, Greg Martino had some style ideas of his own...

"If you were to make any changes I wouldn't mind if you made the back show off her butt a little more, the way Cho drew it in NEW AVENGERS. And if you made it a thong, I wouldn't complain about that either."

Greg likes his super heroine butt, and he cannot lie. Speaking of Frank Cho, I had never actually met him before the Comic Con. I introduced myself and thanked him for the covers he did for the book. We shook hands and his first words to me were "Hey, nice to meet you. You gotta tell DeLaTorre to start drawing her boobs bigger!" Everything you've ever heard about Frank Cho is true.

Also on the costume front, we heard from Ryan Jones, who runs "THIS WOMAN, THIS WARRIOR: The Carol Danvers Homepage." I visited this Web-site first when I was just starting work on this series and now make sure to drop by at least once a week. The forums there are chock-full of Ms. Marvel fans and it's always entertaining.

"Ms. Marvel's current costume is definitely a classic and should not be overly tweaked or modified! Right now, Ms. Marvel is establishing her "brand identity" both among readers and in the current storyline. Her costume is iconic and instantly recognizable, with a long and rich history. This Cockrum classic ranks up there next to the classic costumes of Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man and Phoenix. Each is simple, distinct and bold. The current look is recognized both by readers and the general public of the Marvel Universe. As such, now is hardly the time in Carol's career to institute a full-scale costume change! Just ask Sarah Day..."

The man has a point. And to be honest, I was never really considering a change. For one thing, Brad Bird beat me to the best costume gag ever with the fashion show in THE INCREDIBLES, and I've always dug Carol's black duds. That being said, the old-school white/fire Binary look and the Warbird-era body armor are both making a comeback very, very soon...

Switching gears a bit, everybody seemed to enjoy seeing Wonder Man and Arachne back in action last month.

Steven Faulkner from Memphis, Tennessee said:

"The return of Julia Carpenter in issue #6..... wow.....you don't know how happy you have made this longtime Marvel fan! Julia, in any identity, is one of the greatest characters Marvel has, and seeing her now is so great!"

Sean from Brewer, Maine chimed in with:

"Great to see Wonder Man and Arachne again!! Loved the scene of Arachne kissing Shroud. One of the reasons I like the MS. MARVEL comic is that there is no Wolverine or Spider-Man!!! You are bringing out characters that haven't been seen in a bit and we get to see more of the Marvel Universe. Keep bringing out more characters we haven't seen in a bit or characters that have had a lower profile recently. I hope you keep Wolverine and Spider-Man out of this book. Keep doing a great job."

Sean will be pleased to know that Wolverine was going to be in issue 9, but he was actually rather busy somewhere else in the Marvel Universe and couldn't make it to our little party.

Before I go, here is the greatest e-mail we have ever received about the book, complete and unedited:

Team MM,

There are a great many things I do not like about this book, but you know what? Even though almost every page of every issue has something that really gets up my nose, I still find myself entertained and quite happy by the end, so you simply MUST be doing something right!

Keep it up (the good parts, not the irksome bits)!

Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

There are some days on this job that you just can't help but feel dizzy and disoriented. As always, send your letters to mheroes@marvel.com and be sure to mark them "Okay to Print." Next month concludes our CIVIL WAR arc – and you will NOT want to miss the last page. See you then!

NEXT ISSUE:

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